

off the back page onto the front

This past month the staff of *Excalibur* formed two caucuses — one for staff members of African descent and one for women. These caucuses are forums to work toward real change at the paper and the university.

Currently there are far fewer women in senior positions in information media than men. It's easy to see women's faces on television and hear women's voices on radio; but overwhelmingly the people making decisions are men — and almost exclusively white.

This situation has been echoed at *Excalibur*. All of the editors have been white and most of the staff male. *Excalibur* has traditionally failed to represent the diversity of the campus in its staff. Even this summer's staff recruitment campaign has brought an influx of men and few women.

Although York has the largest black academic community in Canada, *Excalibur* has always had few blacks on staff. The situation has been a self-perpetuating one. Potential writers were discouraged from writing at the paper due to poor coverage of their concerns. Because

these writers were not on staff, the situation never improved.

Targeting recruitment towards traditionally under-represented groups is one of the first concrete goals of the new caucuses.

The media has a considerable influence on the way we think about ourselves and others. Mass media claims to be objective, but in fact only conveys the concerns and supports the interests of privileged groups.

Writing by feminists, blacks, francophones, Native people and others are often dismissed as "biased," "slanted" or "radical," because the writers question the status quo. If one of the purposes of media is to educate, than what better way to start than by raising questions?

And many times the concerns of diverse groups are relegated to a journalistic ghetto — the back page article or hidden guest column. What we hope to do at *Excalibur* is move the issues of under-represented groups off the back page and onto the front.

Excalibur's caucuses are a move toward more responsible coverage of the issues affecting particular communities. The caucus can suggest which issues need to be addressed by the paper, keep an eye on how they are dealt with and also try to make sure that the representation on staff is parallel to the representation in the university. They act as both watchdog and support network.

Excalibur anticipates that as our staff grows more groups will form caucuses. This will only help the paper.

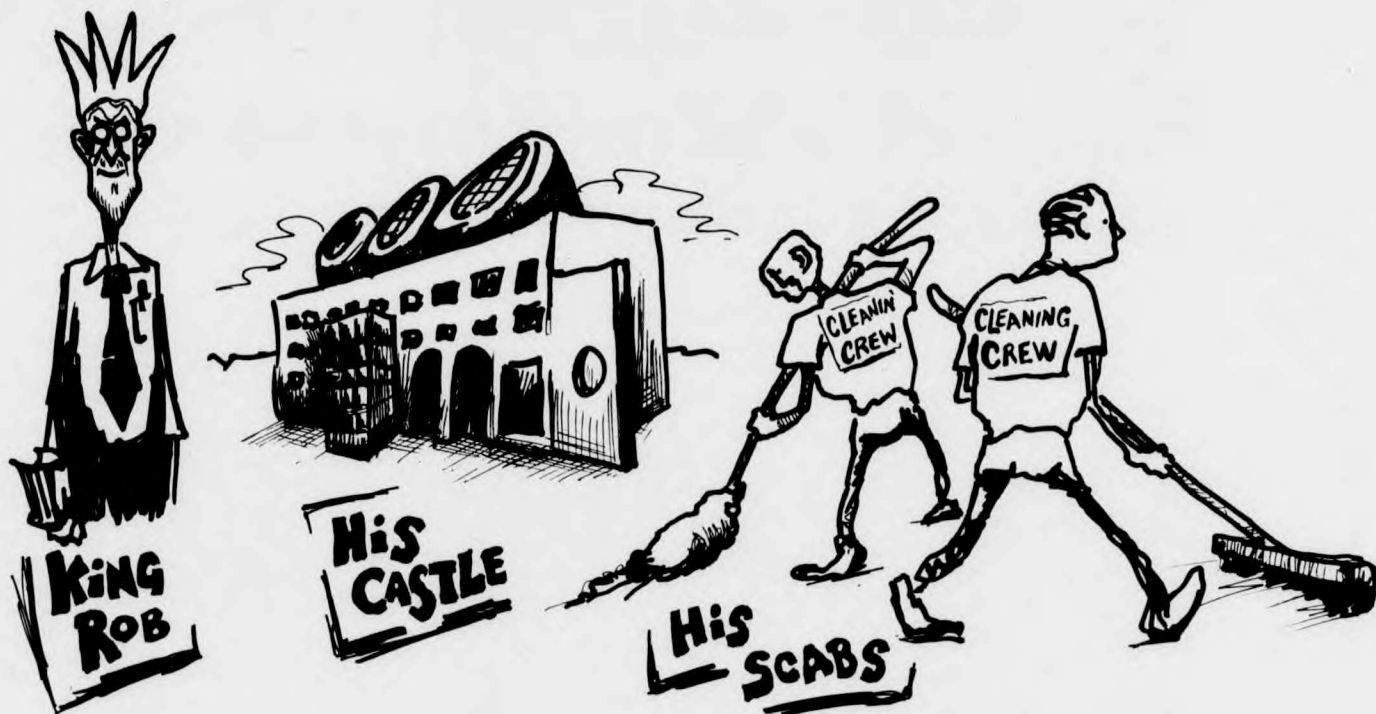
York is the most ethnically diverse campus in Canada. More than half the students are female. The student paper should speak to these different groups — not just about them.

JA

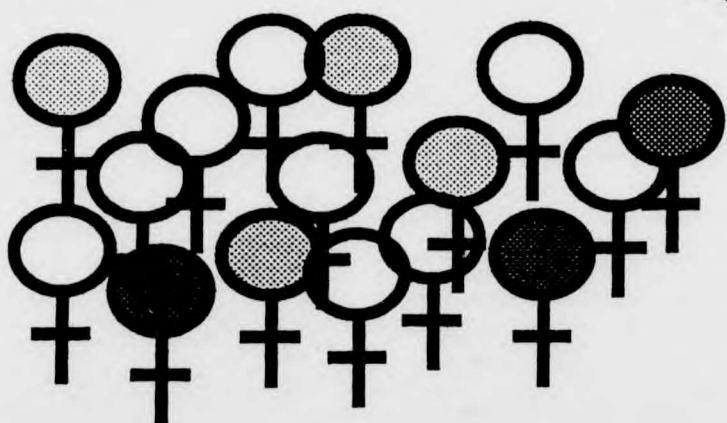
editorial

The topic of the editorial is written with the approval of the majority of the staff. The initials below indicate those who contributed to the writing of the piece.

REAL LIFE: FANTASIES COME TRUE.



EXCALIBUR WOMEN'S CAUCUS



Every Wednesday • 5:00 PM

A fairer excal

Help us develop a policy

Excalibur is in the process of developing a policy to aid us in establishing and maintaining a non-discriminatory media. At present we have a draft policy which we hope to adopt and incorporate into our constitution in the fall. We encourage interested members of the York community to come and pick up a copy of the policy. We welcome your suggestions for improvement. A general meeting to discuss the policy will be held in September.

111 Central Square • 736-5239

excalibur

Excalibur
Room 111, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York, Ontario
M3J 1P3

Telephone:
Advertising • 736-5238
Editorial • 736-5239

Excalibur is York University's
community newspaper.

Excalibur is a volunteer organization. We will consider for publication all submissions that are not deemed libelous or discriminatory by the editors and staff. The opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all members of the staff or board of publications.

Final responsibility resides with the editor-in-chief as outlined in the constitution.

Editor-in-chief Jeannine Amber
Managing Editor Doug Saunders

Contributors Bruce Adamson,
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excalibur

every

WED.

at 5:30pm

all are welcome

general meetings